

Only Rain in the Storm Drain!



Storm Water Protection... It's OUR Business!

Did You Know...

The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rain water away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Storm drains are **not** connected to sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants. Untreated storm water and the pollutants it carries flow directly to creeks, lagoons and the ocean.

Storm water pollution comes from a variety of sources including:

- Oil, fuel and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment
- Lawn clippings, pesticide and fertilizer runoff from landscaping
- Sediment and concrete from construction and landscaping activities
- Bacteria from human and animal waste
- Litter



The City of Carlsbad is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollutants that enter our precious waterways.

Why do we need a clean environment?

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide commercial opportunities, recreation, fish habitat and add beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water – and all of us have a role in making and keeping our creeks, lagoons and ocean clean.



EVERYONE is responsible for protecting storm water!

Storm Water pollution prevention is a shared duty between the City of Carlsbad and the Community. Storm drains on public property are monitored and cleaned by the City. Everyone has a part to play in keeping our storm drains free of pollutants. Methods used to prevent storm water pollution are called Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Help keep our creeks, lagoons and ocean clean!
Below are some BMPs you can use at home.

Sweep or Rake

- Sweep up debris and put it in a trash can. Do not use a hose to wash off sidewalks, parking areas and garages. Rake up yard waste and start a compost pile.



Reduce Use of Landscape Chemicals

- Minimize the use of lawn and garden care products such as pesticides, insecticides, weed killers, fertilizers, herbicides and other chemicals. Avoid over-irrigation which washes chemicals into the gutter and storm drains.

Use Soap Sparingly

- When washing your car at home, use soap sparingly, divert washwater to landscaped areas and pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink. Never wash your car in the street.

Clean up After Your Pets

- Take a bag when you walk your pets and be sure to always clean up after them. Flush pet waste down the toilet or dispose of it in a sealed plastic bag and throw it in the trash.

Buy Non-Toxic Products

- When possible, use non-toxic products for household cleaning. If you must use a toxic cleaning product, buy small quantities, use it sparingly and properly dispose of unused portions. For the Household Hazardous Waste collection facility nearest you, call 1-800-CLEANUP.

What is the Storm Water Program?

The City is regulated by a municipal storm water permit that was issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. The City's Storm Water Program helps to ensure compliance with the permit by:



- Inspecting Carlsbad businesses and requiring BMPs to prevent pollution

- Investigating and eliminating illegal discharges to the storm water system



- Overseeing and conducting water quality monitoring programs

- Educating the public about ways to prevent storm water pollution



Are all discharges to the storm drain illegal?

In the strictest definition, only rain water can legally enter the storm drain. However, the permit currently allows some types of discharges into storm drains when BMPs are used to reduce pollutants. Some examples include:

- Landscape irrigation and lawn watering runoff
- Dechlorinated pool water
- Residential car washing
- Potable water sources
- Foundation drains
- Water line flushing



How do I report a storm water violation?

The Storm Water Program operates a hotline and an e-mail address to receive referrals about storm water pollution and illegal discharges and to answer questions about storm water pollution prevention.

If you see someone dumping or washing waste or pollutants to the street or storm drain, please call the hotline at **602-2799** or send an email to stormwater@ci.carlsbad.ca.us. This information is entered into the City's Request for Action system and is routed to the appropriate person for response.

Where can I get more information?

- Visit the City's website at www.ci.carlsbad.ca.us/csenv/storm.html to view brochures, documents or link to other water quality websites.
- Call the hotline at **602-2799** to have information sent to you.
- To view a copy of the Permit, please go to http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/programs/sd_stormwater.html.

What is the City doing to keep our waterways clean?

Significant efforts are being made by City departments to help keep our waterways clean. A few program activities are listed below:

- Educating the public and City employees about storm water pollution prevention through our website, brochures, publications, workshops and public events
- Inspecting construction sites to ensure that developers are implementing Best Management Practices
- Implementing Best Management Practices at City facilities
- Conducting industrial and commercial inspections to ensure businesses are aware of and complying with the storm water program requirements
- Addressing storm water requirements for new development and significant redevelopment
- Conducting water quality monitoring in the storm drain system and in our creeks, lagoons and ocean
- Investigating reports of illegal discharges
- Implementing a Watershed Urban Runoff Management Plan (WURMP) with the County and other North County cities to protect all of our waterways

Be Part of the Pollution Solution!
Storm Water Hotline: 760-602-2799